

IDLE CONVICTS FILL NEW YORK PRISONS

State Commission Wants More Inmates Put at Work on Roads.

ILL KEPT JAILS CROWDED

ALBANY, March 14.—"Ten dollars or sixty days in the penitentiary is a familiar line in the newspapers and attracts little or no attention," says the State Commission of Prisons in its report to the Legislature on conditions in the five penitentiaries of the State, "yet the aggregate of sentences meted out to offenders sent to penitentiaries during the last fiscal year amounted to 6,004 years and 11 months. In addition fines were imposed totalling \$54,704."

"Failure to pay usually results in the prisoner having to serve an additional day for each dollar of the fine, hence this would mean about 150 years more to be served. Had the offenders been earning \$2 a day in free life their aggregate income would have amounted to \$1,268,452."

The Albany, Erie, Monroe and Onondaga county penitentiaries are county institutions; the New York Penitentiary on Blackwell's Island is conducted by New York city. Reports from these institutions show that during the last year the number of commitments was 18,467, an increase over the preceding year of 5,193.

With the exception of the Monroe county penitentiary these institutions are overcrowded. The daily average prison population for the year was 2,556 as compared with 2,638 the preceding year.

"Although controlled by local officials," says the report, "the penitentiaries are really doing a State work. Each institution contracts with nearby counties to care for their prisoners at a stipulated sum per week."

Cost of Keeping Prisoners.

"Albany charges \$2; Erie, \$2.50; Monroe, \$2.25; New York, from \$1.50 to \$2.25; and Onondaga, \$2.10. United States prisoners are taken at prices ranging from \$1.90 to \$2.10. Albany charges a higher rate than any other county, though its facilities are the worst."

"The county has taken a commendable step by establishing a penitentiary farm. A dormitory and other buildings are being erected by inmates and it is the intention to employ the better elements of the population in outside work. The institution now maintains a few small industries, but is not enough to keep all hands busy."

"Legislative enactment is to be sought to permit the employment of men on the highways of the county, a system in vogue in Onondaga."

"Monroe has an institution farm, but lack of interests among many idle prisoners particularly in winter."

"The New York penitentiary keeps the majority of its prisoners at work at various industries, the products of which are sold to New York city."

"Albany county has made little effort to keep its prisoners employed except in institutional work. A small farm and workshop are used for door work during the summer months but the inmates are maintained in idleness, sitting idly at desks in shop rooms during the day except at certain periods when they are permitted to exercise in the yard."

"Penitentiary prisoners include many Negroes, and since the State prison is the only one which has no direct control in the administration of these institutions, the commission has recommended in previous reports that the State take over the penitentiaries and conduct them as State workhouses. This recommendation is renewed."

"While the sentence does not exceed one year, a person convicted of felony may be sentenced to a penitentiary at State expense. Minors convicted of a felony may also be sentenced to these institutions without restriction as to the length of sentence at the expense of the State."

State Pays for Tramps.

"Inmates from the various counties committed as State tramps are likewise sentenced at State expense. Such numbers to the number of 3,932 males and forty two females were maintained by the State during the last fiscal year at a cost of \$92,213.62, an increase of \$18,874.45."

The total expenditures of the five institutions for the year amounted to \$322,697.61, distributed as follows: Albany, \$63,662; Erie, \$101,799.39; Monroe, \$63,662; New York, \$245,000; State, \$103,714.84.

"There is room for much improvement in the conduct of these institutions. It is the belief of the commission that they could be better managed under State control. Idleness, a condition most hated by experienced prison officials, tends to a greater or less extent in the Albany, Erie and Monroe penitentiaries."

"New York has provided school work for the illiterate, but the other counties have been lax in this respect. No trade class instruction is given and the inmates are given little or no training in the arts of self support."

The commission has repeatedly urged the authorities responsible for the conduct of these institutions to provide educational facilities and more employment. Some of the county authorities are making a real effort to better conditions, while others appear to take little interest in the welfare of the prisoners."

EXPERTS ON INSANITY TO MEET

Exhibits on Mental Hygiene Will Be Shown at Albany.

ALBANY, March 14.—The first State conference and exhibit on mental hygiene will be held in the Education Building here on March 23, 24 and 25, under the auspices of the mental hygiene committee of the State Charities Aid Association. It will deal in general with the aims of the care and prevention of insanity, and will be made by some of the best known experts in the United States. Motion pictures and stereopticon views of the State hospitals will be shown.

Among those who have accepted invitations to speak are: Dr. Henry Smith Williams, well known; Dr. Macrae Campbell of the Henry Higgins Hospital; Dr. August Hoeh of the Psychiatric Institute; Dr. James V. May of the New York State Hospital Commission; Dr. William A. White, superintendent of the Government Hospital for the Insane, Washington; Dr. William L. Russell, superintendent of White Plains, and George H. Kirby of the Manhattan State Hospital.

Asphyxiated in Bed.

John Nigro, 21, a laborer of 75 Mulberry street, was found asphyxiated by illuminating gas in his bed yesterday morning. The police said his death was accidental.

CHICAGO SCIENTIST FINDS WAY TO ANALYZE LIGHT

ILLINOIS SCIENTIST FINDS WAY TO ANALYZE LIGHT

Dr. Chalmers seeks enforcement of Sunday liquor laws.

The Rev. James V. Chalmers, vicar of the Church of the Holy Trinity, has delivered another broadside against Mayor Mitchel. In an open letter which went to the Mayor Dr. Chalmers expressed his fear that the state favoring present example of local option for New York, but asks, "Will you in the mean while enforce the Sunday liquor laws?"

Dr. Chalmers asserts he has sent many letters to the Mayor asking him to enforce the laws. Some of these he says were acknowledged, and others were definitely as yet he has not received any definite answer to his questions. He also alleges that the police of the upper East Side, in which his church is situated, are lax in handling the situation, although he

THE SUN, MONDAY, MARCH 15, 1915.

AUCTION SALES THIS WEEK.

Voluntary and Forced Offerings in Manhattan and The Bronx.

MONDAY, MARCH 15.
AT 14 VESSEY STREET.

By Henry Brady.

MONTE MORRIS PARK WEST, 82 to 88, Bronx.—German Savings Bank in City of New York vs. New York Estate Security Co. vs. Michael Wagner, atty. for Plaintiff; Frank Wagner, ref. due, \$144,177.23; taxes, &c., \$3,900.

MONTE ST. 145, n. 8, 184-19 w. Pike st., Bronx—A six brick tenmt. and store; Susan D. Griffith vs. Abie Lewis et al. Due, \$1,000; taxes, &c., \$1,142.19.

ADRIAN AV. n. 8, 186-11 + Terrace View av. 1814-1815—Vacant—Kate H. Murray vs. Max Greenstein et al. Due, \$1,238.62; taxes, &c., \$1,142.19.

TUESDAY, MARCH 16.
AT 14 VESSEY STREET.

By Henry Brady.

STANTON ST. 84, n. 8, 188-11 + Allen st., Bronx—A six brick tenmt. and store; Christian G. Ophemian et al. trustees, vs. Max Greenstein et al. Harold Swain, atty. for Plaintiff; Frank Wagner, ref. due, \$11,238.62; taxes, &c., \$1,142.19.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17.
AT 14 VESSEY STREET.

By Henry Brady.

123rd ST. 250 and 252 W. s. 8th av. 123-125, 126-128, 130-132, 134-136, 138-140, 142-144, 146-148, 150-152, 154-156, 158-160, 162-164, 166-168, 170-172, 174-176, 178-180, 182-184, 186-188, 190-192, 194-196, 198-200, 202-204, 206-208, 210-212, 214-216, 218-220, 222-224, 226-228, 230-232, 234-236, 238-240, 242-244, 246-248, 250-252, 254-256, 258-260, 262-264, 266-268, 270-272, 274-276, 278-280, 282-284, 286-288, 290-292, 294-296, 298-300, 302-304, 306-308, 310-312, 314-316, 318-320, 322-324, 326-328, 330-332, 334-336, 338-340, 342-344, 346-348, 350-352, 354-356, 358-360, 362-364, 366-368, 370-372, 374-376, 378-380, 382-384, 386-388, 390-392, 394-396, 398-400, 402-404, 406-408, 410-412, 414-416, 418-420, 422-424, 426-428, 430-432, 434-436, 438-440, 442-444, 446-448, 450-452, 454-456, 458-460, 462-464, 466-468, 470-472, 474-476, 478-480, 482-484, 486-488, 490-492, 494-496, 498-500, 502-504, 506-508, 510-512, 514-516, 518-520, 522-524, 526-528, 530-532, 534-536, 538-540, 542-544, 546-548, 550-552, 554-556, 558-560, 562-564, 566-568, 570-572, 574-576, 578-580, 582-584, 586-588, 590-592, 594-596, 598-600, 602-604, 606-608, 610-612, 614-616, 618-620, 622-624, 626-628, 630-632, 634-636, 638-640, 642-644, 646-648, 650-652, 654-656, 658-660, 662-664, 666-668, 670-672, 674-676, 678-680, 682-684, 686-688, 690-692, 694-696, 698-700, 702-704, 706-708, 710-712, 714-716, 718-720, 722-724, 726-728, 730-732, 734-736, 738-740, 742-744, 746-748, 750-752, 754-756, 758-760, 762-764, 766-768, 770-772, 774-776, 778-780, 782-784, 786-788, 790-792, 794-796, 798-800, 802-804, 806-808, 810-812, 814-816, 818-820, 822-824, 826-828, 830-832, 834-836, 838-840, 842-844, 846-848, 850-852, 854-856, 858-860, 862-864, 866-868, 870-872, 874-876, 878-880, 882-884, 886-888, 890-892, 894-896, 898-900, 902-904, 906-908, 910-912, 914-916, 918-920, 922-924, 926-928, 930-932, 934-936, 938-940, 942-944, 946-948, 950-952, 954-956, 958-960, 962-964, 966-968, 970-972, 974-976, 978-980, 982-984, 986-988, 990-992, 994-996, 998-1000, 1002-1004, 1006-1008, 1010-1012, 1014-1016, 1018-1020, 1022-1024, 1026-1028, 1030-1032, 1034-1036, 1038-1040, 1042-1044, 1046-1048, 1050-1052, 1054-1056, 1058-1060, 1062-1064, 1066-1068, 1070-1072, 1074-1076, 1078-1080, 1082-1084, 1086-1088, 1090-1092, 1094-1096, 1098-1100, 1102-1104, 1106-1108, 1110-1112, 1114-1116, 1118-1120, 1122-1124, 1126-1128, 1130-1132, 1134-1136, 1138-1140, 1142-1144, 1146-1148, 1150-1152, 1154-1156, 1158-1160, 1162-1164, 1166-1168, 1170-1172, 1174-1176, 1178-1180, 1182-1184, 1186-1188, 1190-1192, 1194-1196, 1198-1200, 1202-1204, 1206-1208, 1210-1212, 1214-1216, 1218-1220, 1222-1224, 1226-1228, 1230-1232, 1234-1236, 1238-1240, 1242-1244, 1246-1248, 1250-1252, 1254-1256, 1258-1260, 1262-1264, 1266-1268, 1270-1272, 1274-1276, 1278-1280, 1282-1284, 1286-1288, 1290-1292, 1294-1296, 1298-1300, 1302-1304, 1306-1308, 1310-1312, 1314-1316, 1318-1320, 1322-1324, 1326-1328, 1330-1332, 1334-1336, 1338-1340, 1342-1344, 1346-1348, 1350-1352, 1354-1356, 1358-1360, 1362-1364, 1366-1368, 1370-1372, 1374-1376, 1378-1380, 1382-1384, 1386-1388, 1390-1392, 1394-1396, 1398-1400, 1402-1404, 1406-1408, 1410-1412, 1414-1416, 1418-1420, 1422-1424, 1426-1428, 1430-1432, 1434-1436, 1438-1440, 1442-1444, 1446-1448, 1450-1452, 1454-1456, 1458-1460, 1462-1464, 1466-1468, 1470-1472, 1474-1476, 1478-1480, 1482-1484, 1486-1488, 1490-1492, 1494-1496, 1498-1500, 1502-1504, 1506-1508, 1510-1512, 1514-1516, 1518-1520, 1522-1524, 1526-1528, 1530-1532, 1534-1536, 1538-1540, 1542-1544, 1546-1548, 1550-1552, 1554-1556, 1558-1560, 1562-1564, 1566-1568, 1570-1572, 1574-1576, 1578-1580, 1582-1584, 1586-1588, 1590-1592, 1594-1596, 1598-1600, 1602-1604, 1606-1608, 1610-1612, 1614-1616, 1618-1620, 1622-1624, 1626-1628, 1630-1632, 1634-1636, 1638-1640, 1642-1644, 1646-1648, 1650-1652, 1654-1656, 1658-1660, 1662-1664, 1666-1668, 1670-1672, 1674-1676, 1678-1680, 1682-1684, 1686-1688, 1690-1692, 1694-1696, 1698-1700, 1702-1704, 1706-1708, 1710-1712, 1714-1716, 1718-1720, 1722-1724, 1726-1728, 1730-1732, 1734-1736, 1738-1740, 1742-1744, 1746-1748, 1750-1752, 1754-1756, 1758-1760, 1762-1764, 1766-176